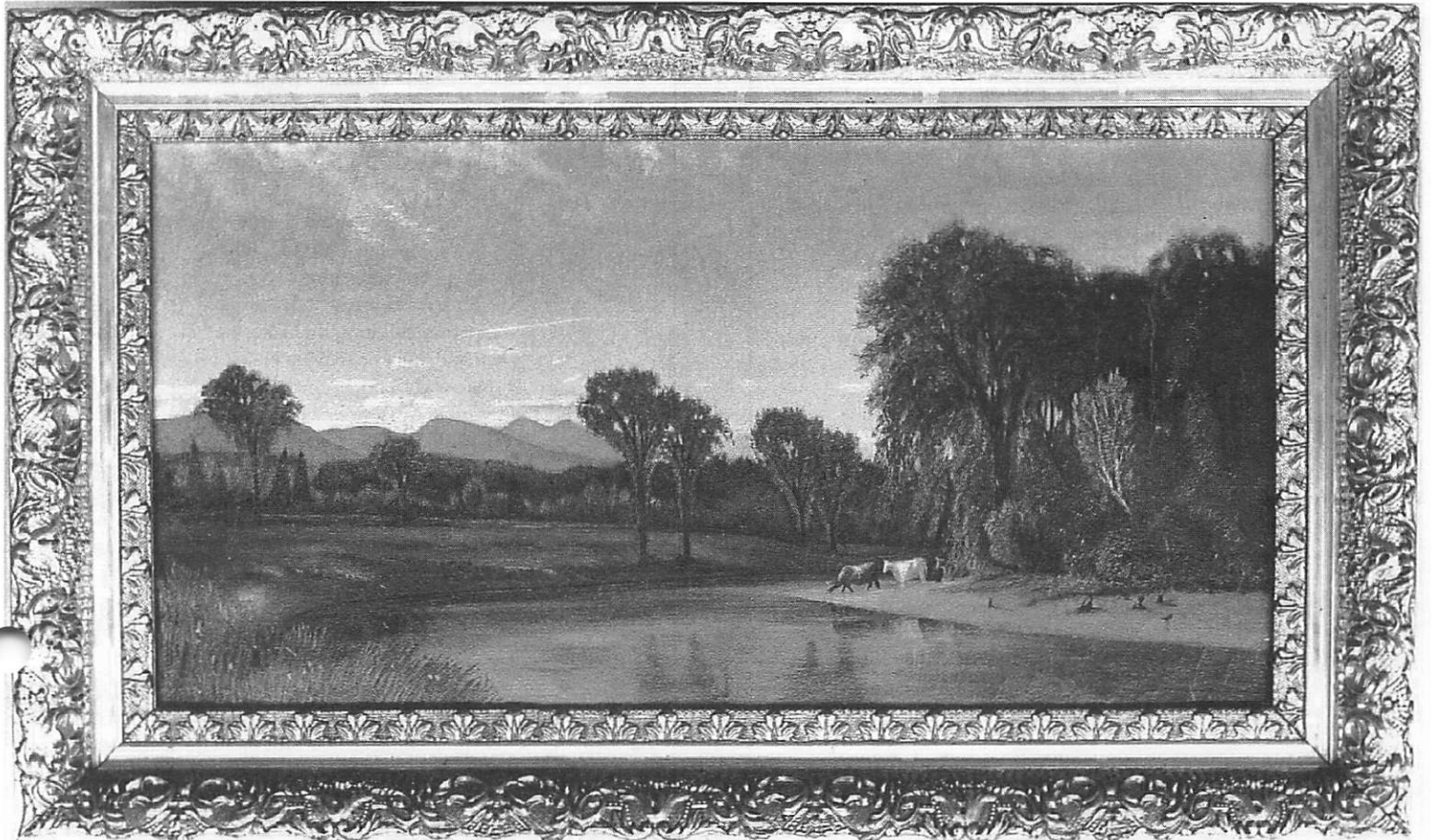


THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 24, Number 3 (2000)



Mounts Moriah, Adams, and Madison from Hastings Island, Bethel, Maine. Unsigned oil painting, circa 1880.

SCENERY OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

An Exhibit at the Bethel Historical Society's
Regional History Center
July 1 to November 2000

Carrying the title of botanist William Oakes' landmark 1848 view book of the White Mountains, this exhibition presents the images of the northern New Hampshire and western Maine hills created from the 1830s to the 1940s for both popular and refined consumption. With its outstanding combination of superb scenery, important historical associations, and easy accessibility to millions of people in the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada, the White Mountain region has long occupied an important place in the collective imagination. For nearly two centuries, artists, printmakers, and photographers have interpreted this rugged landscape in a variety of ways, establishing a vision of the area that is based upon both fact and fiction.

Exhibition List

Echo Lake, Franconia Notch, New Hampshire; The Pool, Franconia Notch, New Hampshire: The Moosilauke Studio, North

Woodstock, NH, hand-tinted photographs, 1935; Private Collection
Leavitt's Map with views of the White Mountains, New Hampshire, 1859: Drawn by Franklin Leavitt; reproduction (about 1980); Private Collection

Saddleback [Baldpate] Mountain from North Newry, Maine: Bicknell Company, Portland, ME; hand-tinted photograph, circa 1930; Collection of the Bethel Historical Society

Barron & Merrill's White Mountain Houses, N.H.: Lithograph, circa 1893; Private Collection

Mount Washington: *Harper's Weekly*, January 14, 1882; Private Collection

Leavitt's Map with views of the White Mountains, New Hampshire, 1882: Drawn by Franklin Leavitt; published by Victor Leavitt; Private Collection

Mount Moriah and the Northern Presidential Range from Artist's Curve, Gilead, Maine: Bicknell Company, Portland, ME; hand-tinted photographs, circa 1935; Collection of the Bethel Historical Society

The Heart of the Notch [Crawford Notch]: From the painting by Harrison Bird Brown; published by Lakeside Press for the Maine Central Railroad; photogravure; Private Collection

(continued on page 5)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 20 December 2000, over \$525,000 had been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors.

Corporate Gifts

Exxon \$1000

Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC \$5000

Mead Publishing Paper Division \$4000

Northeast Bank \$25,000

In-Kind Services

Lee F. Carroll, Electrical Engineer, Gorham, NH, Design \$1904

Points North Surveying, Bethel, Property Survey \$392.50

Foundation Grants

Betterment Fund \$75,000

Bingham Trust \$10,000

Davis Family Foundation \$40,000

Dean Fisher Charitable Foundation \$15,000

Libra Foundation \$10,000

Simmons Foundation \$7,500

Room Naming Opportunities

(\$25,000 or more)

Joan Edwards St. Clair Goodhew, Atlanta GA

Traditional Crafts Room in Honor of Florence Bickford Hastings

Dr. John and Jane Champe Payne, Baltimore, MD

Robert and Janet Spidell, San Clemente, CA

Henry and Patricia Stewart, Bryant Pond

Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin

Michael S. Stowell, Palm Coast, FL

Mary Valentine/Richard Valentine, Bethel

Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True Associates

(Donors of \$10,000 or more)

Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel

Enoch Foster Partners

(Donors of \$5000 to \$9999)

Anonymous (2)

Robert Goodwin, Norway

Richard and Sally Taylor, Bethel

Edmond and Sudie Vachon, Bethel

Agnes Hastings Straw Circle

(Donors of \$2500 to \$4999)

Kenneth and Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel

Dexter and Janet Stowell, Bethel

Dr. William B. Lapham Honor Society

(Donors of \$1000 to \$2499)

Anonymous (2)

Alvin and Lee Barth, Bethel

Rotary Club in Honor of John Head and Roger Conant

Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, Cumberland Center

Stephen and Lynda Chandler, Brunswick

Geoffrey and Martha Fuller Clark, Portsmouth, NH

Howard and Virginia Cole

Dana and Barbara Douglass, Bethel

Colwyn and Judy Haskell, Bethel
William and Susan Herlihy, Newry
Richard and Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel
Jane and Richard Hosterman, West Bethel
Rep. Arlan and Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel
Rebecca Kendall, Bethel
Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel
Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA
Helen Morton, Newry
George and Danna Nickerson, Bethel
Dean and Priscella Walker, Bethel
Stephen and Margaret Wight, Newry

21st Century Club

(Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Robinson House in 1999)

Stanley R. Howe, Bethel

Robert Chapman Founders

(Donors of \$500 to \$998)

Anonymous (1)

Barbara H. Brown, South Paris

Lincoln and Suzanne Fiske, Bethel

John and Julia Fox, West Newton, MA

Ronald and Marguerite Kendall, Bethel

Robert and Virginia Keniston, Bethel

William H. Kieffer, III, Bethel

Roy Kilgore, Guadalupe, CA

John and Margaret King, Lakeland, FL

Persis Post, Bethel

Martin Silver, Norway

Donald and Constance Vautour, Waterboro

Friends of the Robinson House

(Donors Up to \$499)

Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; Alder River Grange #143, Bethel; John Amann, New York, NY; Esther Anderson, Brockton, MA; Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Jean Anton, Greenwood; Roberta Arbree, Randolph, NH; M/M James Aumen, Warren, NJ; Elizabeth Bane, Bethel; Romeo and Jo Baker, Newry; Bradley and Judith Barker, Bethel; Jean Barker, Delray, FL; Donald and Jan Barnhart, San Mateo, CA; M/M Robert Barrell, Jr., West Boylston, MA; John and Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; D.A. Bean Enterprises, Bethel; Evelyn T. Bean, Bryant Pond; Kathleen Bean, Bryant Pond; Bessie Bennett, Bethel; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel; Capt. Richard and Frances Bernier, Bethel; Alfred Bianchi, Shrewsbury, MA; Allyn Billings, Brattleboro, VT; Anne Booske, Lancaster, PA; Roberta D. Bordano, Granby, CT; A. W. and Florine Bowden, Bethel; Donald and Eleanor Brooks, Bethel; Arlene Brown, Bethel; Armenthia Brown, Owings Mills, MD; Caroline Brown, Colorado Springs, CO; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Norma Buck, Oxford; Lois Burgess, Bethel; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA; William and Sarah Carignan, Rumford Center; Frances Carleton, Dixfield; Ina Carey, Framingham, MA; Irving Carver, White Bear Lake, MN; Ernest and Beverly Cassara, Cambridge, MA; Roberta Chandler, Lovell; Ethel Chapman, West Bethel; Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Al and Doris Chiaradonna, North Reading, MA; Donald M. Christie, Jr., M.D., Gray; Norman and Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Honorable Susan Collins, Bangor; Ben B. Conant, South Paris; Stanley Coolidge, Oxford; David Cordella, Shrewsbury, MA; Allen and Jacqueline Cressy, Bethel; Eva Conroy, Auburn; Clayton and Lola Crockett, Bethel; Jack and Sue Cross, Bethel; James and Julie Dougherty, Larchmont, NY; Richard and Grace Douglass, Bethel; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Richard C. Durnin, Norway; Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Margaret Edwards, Upton; Robert and Mary Eichel, Bethel; Howard and Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Raymond Fales, Waitsfield, VT; Donald and Ruth

Feeney, Bethel; Jayne Fife, Salt Lake City, UT; Norman and Barbara Ferguson, Hanover; Alan Fraser, Bethel; Doris Fraser, Bethel; Marion Gates, Ann Arbor, MI; Shirley and Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel; Goodwin's Insurance, Norway; Gordon and Gary Gillies, Bethel; Dr. and Mrs. Glascock, Cedar Falls, IA; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; William and Marguerite Graham, Bethel; Anne Grasso, Providence, RI; Gray Marketing Company, Bethel; Jean Grover, Bethel; Mona Grover, Bethel; Rupert and Suzanne Grover, Norway; Frances Harding, Bethel; Carolyn and Tom Harrison, Portland; Stephen and Susan Hart, Billerica, MA; John Jr. and Jean Hartranf, Rumford; Eric and Celeste Hastings, North Reading, MA; Florence Hastings, Bethel; William and Virginia Hastings, Shelburne, NH; Michael and Leslie Hathaway, Conway, NH; Barbara Healy, Waterville; Clayton and Helen Heath, Norway; Pamela S. Heydon, Wilton, CT; Scott Heydon, Shaker Heights, OH; Elizabeth Hines, Brooklin; Ruth Holmes, Bryant Pond; Adolf U. Honkala, Midlothian, VA; Kathy McLeod Hooke, Bethel; Allan Howe, Bethel; Geraldine Howe, Bethel; John and Joan Howe, Ottawa, Ontario; John Gregory Howe, Gettysburg, PA; Roland and Sally Huston, Rye, NH; Lee and Virginia Hutchins, Bethel; Vernon Ingraham, Wareham, MA; Dana and Mildred Jackson, Bethel; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA; Diane Jones, Fryeburg; Royden and Alice Keddy, Gorham; Ardith A. Kelly, Salinas, CA; Earlon and Mary Keniston, Bethel; Lois Kilroy, Bethel; Edie Ellen Kimball, Newburyport, MA; John H. King, Camden; Jon Kirssin, Mechanicsburg, PA; John Kubach, Bethel; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; Will and Mary Leland, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Fern Lincoln, Reading, PA; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Nancy Lincoln, Bethel; James Locke, Topeka, KS; Elizabeth Lord, Bethel; Michael Lovejoy, Norway; Arlene Lowell, Bethel; Frank and Beatrice Lowell, Newry; Robert Lowell, Newry; M/M Peter Lunder, The Lunder Foundation, Waterville; Blake and Rachel MacKay, Bethel; James and Ethel Mann, Lunenburg, MA; Mary March, Bridgton; Lynn Mason-Courtney, Bethel; Geneva McCoy, Bethel; Frances McKnight, Auburn; Mina McMillin, Bethel; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel; Leonard E. and Renee Minsky Charitable Trust, Bangor; Marilyn R. Noyes Mollicone, Augusta; Joann C. Mooney, London, UK; Blaine Moores, Acton; Nancy Morris, Bethel; Herbert H. Morton III, Andover, MA; Schuyler and Winifred Mott, Paris; Ellen Mugar, Cape Elizabeth;; James and Lucia Owen, Stoneham; Jean Owen, Bethel; Marvin and Tineka Ouwinga, Bethel; Richard and Wendy Penley, Bethel; Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Duane and Gail Preble, Kennebunkport; Betty Barlow Prescott, Bangor; Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Norman and Joan Putnam, Bryant Pond; Joan Ramsey, Groveton, NH; Dr. David Richards, Skowhegan; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; John and Lisa Robbins, Richmond; Phyllis Roberts, Newcastle; Catherine Robie, Ipswich, MA; Dr. Ned Robertson, Beachwood, OH; Lorraine Rodak, Hackensack, NJ; Edith Rowe, Bethel; Peter and Elsie Seames, Greenwood; John C. Schneider, Lynnfield, MA; Rex and June Slick, Middletown, IN; Arthur and Betty Ann Smith, Newburyport, MA; Ann Stanley, Hackensack, NJ; Donald R. Stanley, South Portland; Edward Stanley, Hackensack, NJ; Warren Stearns, Hanover; Doris Stengel, Wayne, NJ; Joan Thuston Peabody Stewart, Portland; Nancy Stickney, North Salem, NH; Susan Strange, Potomac, MD; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Mary Telfer, Median, PA; Murray and Constance Thurston, Bethel; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel; Samuel and Nan Timberlake, Bethel; Don and Peggy Tobin, Bandera, TX; Dr. John and Margaret Trinward, North Waterford; Jaquelyn Van Leuven, Bethel; Margaret S. Ward, Sun City Center, FL; Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA; Owen and Sue Wight, Newry; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Willard and Sylvia Wight, Newry; John Wiley, Hopewell, NY; Priscilla Wiley, Woodbury, CT; Ronald Willard, Springfield, VA; Eleanor Wilson, Bedford, MA; Raymond and Eleanor York, Fayetteville, NC; Archie and Jane Young, Bethel.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Well intentioned arson, that's what it was! Arson you say! Yes, it was and it happened during the Annual Meeting of your Society. At the chicken barbecue, the mortgage on the recently purchased Robinson House (formerly known as "The Elms" of the Bethel Inn & Country Club) was sent up in smoke by Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Susan Herlihy and Walter Hatch, who did the honors. Phase I of the capital campaign to acquire the building and pay off the mortgage was completed in record time thanks to the generosity and hard work of many members and friends.

The long range plan of the Society to establish a Regional History Center to focus on the Northern New England past is now a reality with its "campus" of the Mason and Robinson houses and the beautiful grounds that surround them. Much gratitude is due all the generous donors and the hard work of the Capital Campaign Committee who made this possible. An organization such as ours is only as strong as our volunteers and dedicated staff. Thank you again for all you do and keep up the good work.

Alvin Barth

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alan and June Abbott, Bethel
 Allen D. and Mary Alice Hastings Bancroft, Paris, ME
 Lee Barth, Bethel
 Peter and Mary-Ellen Gartner, Bryant Pond
 Jerry S. and Jeri B. Greenwell, Bethel
 Joshua Paul Head, Bethel
 Kate Riley Nickerson, Bethel
 Ted Orino, Rumford
 Joan Pariseau, Turner
 Archie L. and Jane B. Young, Bethel

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 21 September 2000, Roger E. Robertson, Northridge, CA, Life Member
 Died, 25 September 2000, Phyllis Davis Dock, Bethel, Sustaining Member
 Died, 27 September 2000, Helen Varner Judkins, Farmington, Life Member
 Died, 27 October 2000, Ruth Scribner, Sumner, Senior Member
 Died, 7 November 2000, Irene Russell, Norway, Senior Member
 Died, 1 December 2000, Ethel L. Chapman, West Paris, Life Member
 Died, 5 December 2000, John P. Bayerlein, Bethel, Benefactor Member

Mortgage Discharge for the Robinson House Property July 25, 2000

DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that **NORTHEAST BANK, F.S.B.**, a federally chartered savings bank having its office and place of business in Auburn, County of Androscoggin and State of Maine, owner of a certain mortgage given by **THE BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY** dated MAY 6, 1998, and recorded in the **OXFORD** County Registry of Deeds, *Book 2555 Page 066*, does hereby discharge said mortgage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Northeast Bank, F.S.B. has caused this instrument to be sealed with its corporate seal and signed in its corporate name by Martha L Adams, its Vice President thereunto duly authorized, this 25TH day of JULY 2000.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered
in the presence of:

Sneyd Richards

Northeast Bank, F.S.B.

By *Martha L Adams*
Martha L Adams
Its Vice President

State of Maine

County of Androscoggin ss.

AUGUST 8, 2000

Then personally appeared the above named Martha L Adams, Vice President of said Northeast Bank, F.S.B., and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed in her said capacity and the free act and deed of said Northeast Bank, F.S.B.

Please return the recorded document to:
Northeast Bank FSB
Po Box 1707
Lewiston, ME 04241-1707

Before me,

Michelle L. Mason

Notary Public

Michelle L. Mason
Print Name

Michelle L. Mason, Notary Public
State of Maine
My Commission Expires 7/14/2004

RECEIVED
RECORDED REGISTRY OF DEEDS

2000 SEP 15 AM 10:30

OXFORD COUNTY

James C. Rich



(Scenery of the White Mountains, continued from page 1)

The Mount Washington Road: Illustration by Harry Fenn, for William Cullen Bryant, ed., *Picturesque America*, Vol. 1, 1872; steel engraving by Samuel Valentine Hunt; Private Collection

October in the White Mountains: *Harper's Weekly*, October 31, 1874; wood engraving (later hand-colored) by Walter Francis Brown; Private Collection

Israel Kimball, Jr. Homestead and Dr. Timothy Carter Brick-end House, Middle Intervale, Bethel; Israel Kimball, Sr. Homestead, Middle Intervale, Bethel: Watercolor paintings by Susie L. Kimball, 1880; Private Collection

Tuckerman's Ravine; Mt. Washington & the Ammonoosuc; Echo Lake, Franconia Notch: Sawyer Pictures Company, Concord, NH; hand colored photographs, circa 1925-1930; Private Collection

A Glimpse of Old New Hampshire Village, Stark, NH; Mt. Chocorua and Lake; Mts. Washington and Madison over Peabody River and Route 16, Gorham, NH; White Birch Memorial Drive, U.S. Route 2, Shelburne, NH [winter]; Glen Ellis Falls, Pinkham Notch, NH; White Birch Memorial Drive, U.S. Route 2, Shelburne, NH [summer]: The Shorey Studio, Gorham, NH; hand-tinted photographs by Guy L. Shorey, circa 1925-1935, Private Collection

Mount Washington from Intervale: hand-tinted photograph by Phinney, circa 1925; Private Collection

Autumn on the Androscoggin River, NH: Louis Prang and Company, Boston (tentative identification), chromolithograph, circa 1875; Private Collection

Pemigewasset Valley, near Deer Park Hotel, North Woodstock, NH: D. W. Butterfield, Photographer and Publisher, Cambridgeport, MA; albumen photograph; circa 1890; Private Collection

Map of the White Mountains, New Hampshire, From Original Surveys, 1858: Harvey Boardman, Griswold, CT; engraved by Smith, Knight & Tappan, Boston; Private Collection

White Mountain Station House, By J. R. Hitchcock & Co., Gorham, NH: J. H. Bufford's Lith., Boston; lithograph, circa 1860; reproduction (about 1975); Collection of the Bethel Historical Society

Panoramic View of Gorham, NH: photo by William J. Boiley, Berlin, NH; circa 1940; Private Collection

Gorham, New Hampshire/The Gateway to the White Mountains/Grand Trunk Railway System: photograph circa 1895; Private Collection

White Mountain National Forest/New Hampshire - Maine: published by the New Hampshire Aerial Tramway Commission; circa 1940; Private Collection

White Mountain National Forest/A National Playground: hand-tinted photograph, circa 1925; Private Collection

The Notch House, White Mountain [sic]: after a drawing by William H. Bartlett; hand-colored lithograph published by Currier and Ives, New York; circa 1857; Private Collection

Mahoosuc Notch: George Frederic Morse; oil painting, 1880; Private Collection

Near Bethel, on the Androscoggin, Maine: Samuel Colman, 1832-1920; Louis Prang and Company, Boston; chromolithograph, 1869; Collection of the Bethel Historical Society

A Glimpse of Mt. Washington: J. P. Whitehead; oil painting, 1890; Private Collection

Presidential Range and Saco River: James William Welch, 1827-1895; oil painting, circa 1880; Collection of the Bethel Historical Society

White Mountain scene: unsigned and undated painting; circa 1880; Private Collection

Mount Moriah, Adams, and Madison from Hastings Island,

Bethel: unsigned oil painting; (circa 1845-60); Private Collection
Alder River Bridge and Mountains, Bethel, Maine: unsigned oil painting; circa 1890; Private Collection

Much appreciation is due all those who generously loaned items for this exhibit.



Retired UMF professor Jay Hoar, the featured speaker at the 35th annual meeting, addressed the boys under sixteen who fought in the Civil War.

35th ANNUAL MEETING

Over 75 members and friends attended the chicken barbecue on the Robinson House lawn and 35th annual meeting of the Bethel Historical Society held on September 7. Following the barbecue, Randal and Sarah Stevens received the fourteenth annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award for their many years of faithful service to the Society. In his presentation, president Al Barth stressed Sarah's numerous years as an active member of the Special Projects Committee, preparing and serving food for Society events and assisting in the work of the Committee. Both she and her husband served on the Nominating Committee and transported elderly and handicapped members to Society meetings and events for many years. Theirs has been a life of service to many and the Society has been blessed with having them in its midst for much of its history.

Following this portion of the program, Walter Hatch and Susan Herlihy, co-chairs of the Capital Campaign, came forward to thank everyone who had helped with the Campaign to date and for making it possible to burn the mortgage at this time, which was accomplished with aplomb.

President Barth called attention to the conceptual plans that are being developed by Smith/Reuter Architects and asked for those in attendance to take a look and make comments and suggestions to members of the Building Committee and/or the architect, Jim Reuter.

The group then moved to the Dr. Moses Mason House exhibit hall for the remainder of the annual meeting. President Barth asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those members who had died since the last annual meeting: Celia K. Gorman, Bethel; Marilyn Boyker Hammel, Tampa, FL; Muriel Faudi, Bethel; M. Heinie Merrill, Brunswick; Linda Harrington, Newry; Marguerite Quinn, West Burke, VT; Marion E. Chapman, Hermitage, PA; Floribel Haines, Bethel; Allan Fraser, Bethel; Cornelius Merrill,

(Continued on page 6)

(35th Annual Meeting, continued from page 5)

Bethel; Bernice Brown, Canton; Edward Lee Mills, Locke Mills; J. Maynard Austin, Bennington, VT; Albert Judkins, Peru; Richard Harding, Sr., South Paris; Robert W. Goodwin, Norway; Elizabeth Laws, Silver Lake, NH; G. Rodney Hackwell, North Easton, MA; Edward MacGibbon, Palatka, FL; Margaret Sawyer, Waterford; Edith Coolidge, Bethel; Barbara Wheeler, Bethel; Ethel Carpenter, Whitefield, NH; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; Barbara D. Brown, Bethel.

President Barth reviewed some of the highlights of the past year: forty two individual and corporate members added to the rolls, over ninety donations of artifacts and historical materials received, a number of successful special events and lectures held, over fifty enrollees in the three centuries of Bethel history course, the completion of the MAP III self study (Museum Assessment Program dealing with audience development), the hiring of an architect to provide preliminary work on the Robinson House where the chimneys have been repointed and the main building is being rewired, the raising of the largest sum ever for the Annual Fund.

Since the minutes for the last annual meeting were approved last October, the president passed over that item on the agenda and reported that the 1999 audit report was now available and would be published in the *Courier*.

A report by the Membership Committee recommended raising the rates on life memberships to take effect on 1 January 2001 was made. It was approved without dissent by those Society members present.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Arlene Lowell from the Board of Trustees and Jean Owen and Alan Abbott from the general membership proposed the following slate: president, Alvin Barth; vice president Arlan Jodrey; secretary and clerk of the trustees, Allen Cressey; treasurer, Susan Herlihy; trustee for three years, John Head. The slate was approved unanimously. President Barth thanked retiring trustees Arlene Lowell for her three years of service on the Board of Trustees.

Arlan Jodrey, chair of the Building Committee, reported that the buildings plans were in the concept stage and urged those with ideas to pass them on to the Committee or the architect. He added that a new roof would be added to the front portion of the Robinson House soon.

Society Executive Director Stanley R. Howe introduced the speaker for the evening, retired University of Maine at Farmington professor Jay Hoar, who spoke on the boys under sixteen who fought in the Civil War.

BOOK NOTE

EVOLUTION OF A VALLEY: THE ANDROSCOGGIN STORY. By Page Helm Jones (Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing, 1975, Pp. 176. Cloth. \$18.95

Although this book was published in 1975 and is out of print, a quick search through the back issues of *The Courier* reveals that it has never been listed or cited. Recently, a book dealer notified the Society that he had copies that he would sell us for re-sale. We now have several available. They may be acquired for \$18.95 plus \$4 for shipping and handling. Maine residents should also add 5% sales tax.

Jones, who is now deceased, was born in Virginia, grew up in the South, and worked at a number of occupations before retiring to Berlin, NH, where he grew to love the Androscoggin River. His book contains an overview of the history of the River and its relations to the towns along its path to the sea. His particular focus is the efforts that had been made in pollution abatement in the 1950s until the book's publication in 1975. This volume is a must for anyone interested in the Androscoggin and its history. SRH



George and Danna Nickerson

MEMBER PROFILE

Danna and George Nickerson

Married in 1972, Danna and George Nickerson have long been active in the community, owning and operating several businesses and doing volunteer work for the town and schools. George, the son of Herbert E. and Evelyn Perry Nickerson, is a graduate of Gould Academy and Paul Smith's College. His wife, Danna, the daughter of Donald S. and Arlene Greenleaf Brown, is a graduate of Telstar Regional High School and Westbrook College.

Returning to Bethel after college, George operated the Bethel Spa Restaurant on Main Street with John E. Grover. Soon after the marriage, he and Danna purchased Albert Cotton's rubbish route, which they called GAN Sanitation Service and expanded to serve several area towns. In 1979, they sold that business and opened the Bulldog Diner on Railroad Street (now the Bethel Family Health Center). After the sale of that business, George was employed by P.H. Chadbourne Company as garage manager and then supervisor of the sawmill. He has remained there after the sale of the mill to Hancock Lumber and is currently in charge of maintenance.

In 1983, the Nickersons opened the Unicorn Flower Shop in their home on Bridge Street. Later a large retail space and greenhouses were added. The business was sold in 1986 when Danna developed eye problems. Danna then became a full-time mom for her daughter Kate, who was born in 1980, volunteering in her classroom and for after school activities. During this time, Danna took up watercolor and acrylic painting, and has produced many landscapes and house portraits for family and friends. Subsequent cataract surgery greatly improved her vision, and in November 2000, she began working as the office secretary of the Society.

Always interested in family and local history, Danna and George, who both descend from some of the area's earliest settlers, served as co-vice chairs of the Bethel Bicentennial celebration in 1996. Life members of the Society, they serve on the Research Library and Building Committees. Danna is also a member of the Membership, Annual Fund, and Museum Shop committees and volunteers weekly in the Research Library. She is currently working with volunteer Adeline Clough on updating the Bethel cemetery records and entering them into a data base so they can eventually be included on the Society's web site. In addition, she works with Society Curator Randall Bennett on the planning and production of exhibits. George also volunteers in the research library and assists with other projects.

(continued on page 7)

(The Nickersons, continued from page 6)

In 1997, the Nickersons moved into the 1910 bungalow on Kilborn Street, once owned by Danna's grandparent, Carl L. and Ruth Mason Brown, and have been working on its careful restoration. Their interests include exploring antique shops, canoeing, snowshoeing, model trains (and real ones!), local history and genealogy, and traveling in Northern New England, especially in the White Mountain area. They recently purchased the last remaining railroad-related structure in Bethel from the 19th century, the "Potato John" Swan barn on Railroad Street.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD ADVERTISER, 17 December 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway



On the third of June, the enemy was in line of battle, the 5th Maine and 121 N.Y. were to make a night attack. Upton was away and Col. Edwards was in command. He brought on the engagement himself and it was fought entirely under his direction. The 5th Maine assisted and opened the battle. Our men laid near the enemy's works. Pits were dug by hands, spoons and tin cups. It was just after dark when it began. It lasted an hour. There were no losses on our side as their shots passed over the heads of our men. After the firing ceased a rebel officer inside their works shouted: "How much have you made of it?" "As much as you have. If you don't think so try it on again," was the reply. The contemplated attack had been abandoned on finding our forces ready to anticipate their hostile movements. The regiment was on the move to Richmond. It crossed the Chickahominy and marched over a part of the old route it took in the peninsula campaign under McClellan. It reached the James in due time as the army advanced and arrived in the vicinity of Petersburg on the 17th of June, 1864. The next morning the regiment was ordered out in "Hot Haste" to assist in making a charge. It was found the enemy was too strongly intrenched and the order countermanded. A move was made to the left around where soldiers and the 5th Maine had their last fight with the enemy. They threw up works which they occupied for two days, when another movement was made still farther to the left. The order for relieving them from further service on the 23rd of June found them in the rebel pits with loaded muskets facing the enemy. The following is Upton's address to the regiment upon its departure. "Headquarters, Second Brigade, June 23, 1864. Col. Edwards, officers and men of the Fifth Maine Regiment: At the expiration of your term of service, I feel it is a great pleasure to signify to you my appreciation of the services you have rendered to your country. Your gallantry, your constancy, your devotion to the flag of your country, your patient endurance of fatigue during the campaigns of three long years entitle you to the lasting gratitude and esteem of your countrymen. Springing to arms at the first sound of danger, you have given proof of your valor and patriotism on every field from the first Bull Run to the present time. Leaving your native state with over one thousand and forty men you now return with but two hundred and sixteen. The long list of battles that you have participated in included Bull Run, West Point Gaines Mill, Charles City Cross Roads, Crampton Gap, Antietam, Fredricksburg, Salem Heights, Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station and at Cold Harbor will account for your losses. Repeatedly the colors of the 5th Maine floated over the enemy's works. From behind their entrenchments you have captured the battle-flags of five of the proudest regiments in the Confederate service and while inflicting loss equal to your own you have in addition captured more prisoners that you have borne names on the rolls. But while your former services have won for you the admiration and confidence of your commanding officers, your example and conduct during the

present campaign forms the brightest page of your history. After three years hard fighting, well knowing the risks of battle, not even the ardent desire or immediate prospect of being restored to your friends could dampen your ardor or enthusiasm, but like brave and patriotic men, you have fought nobly to the end of your term, adding with each day increased luster to your arms. With this brilliant record and the proud consciousness that you have stood by your country in the darkest hour of her peril, you now return to your homes where you will receive the homage and the services you have rendered. Bidding each and every one of you on behalf of your old comrades in arms a hearty God-speed, I have the honor to be your obedient servant, E. Upton, Brig. Gen'l Commanding. The soldiers broke camp and marched to City Point, and from there were transported to Washington. Their fighting was over and anxiously their faces turned homeward. They found a different atmosphere altogether when they arrived in the Capital City, from what they had breathed when they reached it in '61, on their way to the front. Then no place as good for them. Now scarcely a decent camping place could be found. A cow and hog pasture between the city and the river was selected by the authorities, but their colonel did not think it such as they deserved and refused to take them there. Getting vexed with the delay he promptly marched his men up to the grounds of the Smithsonian Institute, where they went into camp for the night. The officials were aghast at seeing veterans of the 5th Maine occupying the grounds. They were assured that nothing should be touched and the colonel would be personally responsible for any damage. None whatever was done but the boys enjoyed the situation hugely. The next day they were promptly paid off and hurried aboard a train for the North. At Baltimore an attempt was made to put the men into dirty cattle cars. This was promptly vetoed by their colonel. They had done their duty to the utmost on the battlefield and won a renown of which any body of soldiers might justly be proud and he was determined that they should at least be treated decently on their way home. At Philadelphia they met with a magnificent reception. It citizens honored the battled-scarred veterans returning to their homes equally with the soldiers marching to the front. Their liberality was unbounded and will long be remembered to their credit as long as the great conflict itself. When they reached Portland an immense concourse of people assembled in the vicinity of the depot to welcome them. On alighting from the cars its heroes formed in a straight line and marched through the streets of the city, escorted by a body of citizens under Col Scammond, who had commanded the regiment. The city government, military and the Veteran Reserve, headed by a brass band, composing the escort. A fine collation was served to which the men did ample justice. Before they could be mustered out, Early's raid on Washington took place and these men who had but a few days before came from the front again offered their services to the government to repel the invasion, but the Confederates soon retreated and their service was not required. On the 27th of July, the Regiment numbering one hundred and ninety-three officers and men, was mustered out of the service. That ends the history of the Bethel soldiers, of the 5th Maine, a history bright and shining as any, in all the armies mustered for battle in that great conflict. There is not a lover of country anywhere under the sun, who is not proud of the achievements of the Union soldiers and how much more ought to proud of these whose history, I have but briefly and imperfectly outlined, since they went forth at the call of their country from their homes among the hills of Oxford County. Many of them never returned, their bones lie in Southern soil on battlefield and plain, where they fell, and at Andersonville is all that remains on earth of Milo C. Walker. But the cause for which they died shall live. It will never fail to stir the hearts of a people to keep step to the music of Union and freedom.

(to be continued in the next issue)

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

(continued from the last issue)



1937-July 1, Rain!! Hot! Cultivated & hoed garden in a.m. Went to L. Mills after grain. July 2, Clear. Hayed all day. July 3, Clear. Cultivated & hayed. July 4, Clear & hot. Shower in p.m. Surveyed on Haines lot 7 hrs. Uncle John came. July 5, Clear. Put hoes on tractor. Hoed potatoes. They are looking fine. Potatoes under them 1/2" dia. July 6, Clear & hot. Hoed spuds. In p.m. went to Norway. Had the 500 mile inspection on new car. 414 miles. Haines & Day import another surveyor. July 7, Cloudy & hot! Hoed & hayed. Last eve. Kenyon resigned, so I am It in Mt. Abram [Fish & Game]. Curses!!! July 8, Clear & hot as H___!! Hayed all day on Henry piece. Swam at Verner Smith's camp in eve. July 9, Cloudy. Barbara's birthday, 10 years. July 10, Sprayed 4 or 5 A. Tops on one field touched the sprayer axle. Half done haying. July 11, Cloudy. Went with Haines=Day surveying crew. Herb Jenne-surveyor. He confirmed lines & could locate no stake & stones. Greenwood, Paris, Sumner, Buckfield, Paris Hill. Car ran fine. July 12, Cleaned up all day. July 13, Cloudy. Picked chickens. Hoed spuds. Norway in p.m. July 14, Clear & hot. Repaired mower. July 15, Cloudy. Spayed. July 16, Cloudy. Showers. Sprayed & hayed. Edward's birthday. 3 years. July 17, Showers. "Twister" & shower in eve. July 18, Clear, warm. Waxed car. Invited to dinner at Maynard Chase, W. Paris. July 19, Hayed. July 20, Norway in p.m. Bro[t sic] home set of jigger wheels. \$25. Good trade! July 21, Fair. Haying. July 22, Practically all done haying. July 23, Hot!!! Sprayed all day. Bought a Fairbanks-Morse electric refrigerator \$212-\$22.50 for ice box - \$24.88 for ice = \$165. July 24, Hot. Bethel in p.m. with produce. July 25, Hot!!! We went to Portland & Drake Island. Swam in ocean. Then to Kittery, Portsmouth, Dover, Rochester, Ossipee, Conway, Glen, Gorham & home. 275 mi. 18.3 mi. per gal. July 26, Cloudy. Went to White Cap for blueberries. Got 18 qts. & came home in 6 showers. No. 3 was a cloudburst. 2 1/2" of rain fell. July 27, Clearing. Painted wheels. Norway in p.m. Mr. Brock bro[t sic] new refrigerator. Nice machine. July 26, Clear & cool. Sprayed in a.m. Surveyed 4 hrs. on middle line at 5R4. July 29, Clear & hot. Dressed chicken & picked beans. Threw my back out of place. Finished haying. Norway in p.m. to see Swett [osteopath]. July 30, Cloudy. Dressed poultry. Built body on jigger. Back is bad. July 31, 36th birthday. Clearing. Worked on jigger. Sprayed in p.m. August 1, Rain. Went to Greenwood. August 2, Cloudy. Started the Coburn Place roof job. New shingles, new finish & a lot of new board. Also rat proofed the eaves with tin & cement. August 3, Cloudy. Roof job. August 4, Hot. Dressed 26 chicken & hens. Shingled. Framed a push up window on roof. August 5, Hot. Roof job. Dug a bu. of spuds. They were not ready to dig yet. Sold 10 chickens to Holman. August 6, Hoter'n ever!! Shingled. Picked out 20 Rock pullets for Holman \$1.15 each. 6 chickens to Ramsell. August 7, Hot. Dressed 26 chix & hens. Total almost 100 gone this week. Shingled very little. Aunt "Frank" Bean died today. August 8, Cloudy. We went to see Edward [Hastings] at Fryeburg via Evans Notch. 50 miles that way. Corn fields in Fryeburg are looking fine. August 9, Cloudy. Shingled. Got piece flying metal in my arm. Went to Aunt Frank's funeral. Pres. Kenyon [Mt. Abram Fish & Game Assoc.] "blew up" & resigned! Wild times!! August 10, Cloudy. Put rims back on tractor. Went to Norway in p.m. F. & G. meeting in eve. I'm in charge of Field Day. August 11, Clearing. Hot. Dressed poultry. Sprayed. August 12, Cloudy. Peeled hemlock. August 13, Clearing. Set up tents for Field Days. Peeled hemlock. August 14, Clear & cool. Field Day at Mt. Abram. 2000 people. Gov. Barrows there. I stayed until 11:30 p.m. Cleared \$200 \$100 for PTA. \$100 for Mt. Abram. August 15, Clear & hot. Took down tents. Cleaned up field. Went to Norway Lake to Lauri's [Tamminen] Camp [his wife's brother-in-law]. August 16, Clear. Spraying. Pulling weeds. August 17, Clear. Mowed oats. Cecil Tyler ground valves for tractor. Norway in p.m. Then to Lauri's Camp for supper and swim. Aug.

18, Clear. Turned oats. Plowed Eph. piece. Mowed oats. Sprayed. August 19, Clouding up. Repaired thresher. Harrowed. In p.m. loaded oats & threshed 4 loads. 81 bu. Agnes [Howe Bettinger, cousin of WSH and her daughter] Mary Lee, [and her niece and nephew] Elisabeth and Bill [Howe] came [children of WSH's cousin Clarence D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Transport]. August 20, Clearing after some nice showers in night. Bob gone to Farm Bureau Field Day. Shingled. Turned oats. Pulled weeds. August 21, Hot!! Showers. Finished shingling Coburn Place. Mowed oats. August 22, Cloudy. Home in a.m. In p.m. went to Norway, Otisfield, Naples, Poland. August 23, Clearing, cool. Peeling in p.m. Finished peeling, he hemlock is beginning to stick. August 24, Fair. Warm. Worked on Coburn Place. Oats in p.m. Threshed 1 load (20 bu.). Nominating Com. meeting in eve. August 25, Clear. Threshed all day. Awful dusty. 104 bu. W. Paris in eve. August 26, Cloudy. Dressed poultry. Threshed. August 27, Mowed oats & ran the fire gun on bindweed patches round the creeks. Works good. August 28, Mowed oats & foxtail. Curriers called in p.m. Kids are learning to ride bicycles. August 29, Clear & hot! My family & Grover Brooks family went to Umbagog on a picnic. Also went to Cambridge River to Forks in canoe. Water was low. Nice trip. August 30, Clear, hot! Threshed for Jorgen [Olson] in a.m. Our oats in p.m. 2 loads. Got load of hay for John [Howe]. Swam in evening. Cold. August 31, Clear. Dressed poultry. Sent for Barb's bicycle. Also Chain Tape. Norway in p.m. Barbara went to visit Emmie & Lauri [Tamminen, her aunt and uncle]. September 1, Clear & hot! Plowed & harrowed. Awful dry. September 2, Hotter than ever. Threshed Farwell's oats. 9 1/2 bu.! Got in 2nd crop. Started set of shelves for canned stuff. September 4, Cloudy, showers. Cooler. Bob moved Lawrence Kimball's family to Lewiston [L.D. Kimball lived in Middle Intervale, but became Asst. Professor of French at Bates College]. I did carpenter work & got irons made for jigger at Ad Thurston's. September 5, Cloudy, cold. Made set of shelves for canned goods. Greenwood in p.m. September 6, +36 deg. Clear & cold. Warmed up. Dressed poultry. Got in Farwell's hay. September 7, +40 deg. Cool. Worked on jigger. Finished threshing. Load straw to Greenwood in eve. September 8, Cold & windy. Plowed & harrowed. Bob is sick. 2 loads of 2nd crop. September 9, +27 deg. Cold. Frost. Cut our ensilage corn & started filling silo. September 10, Filled silo to top. September 11, Cloudy. Rain. First rainy day for 41 days. Worked clearing land in rear of cemetery. Clarence's family came. September 12, Clear & cool. Went around the island in river with Rodney [Howe] & 2 Bill Howes. September 13, Cut ensilage for Jorgen. Clarence's family left. Started wiring New's rent. Rain in p.m. 1 3/4 hrs. September 14, Rain a.m. Clearing p.m. Wired 3 3/4 hours. Norway in p.m. Car greased. Bot [sic] "grease book" 6 greasings for \$3. September 15, Clear. Picked & cut Farwell's corn. September 16, Clear. Cut in Farwell's ensilage. September 17, Rainy. Cut in Kimball's ensilage. September 18, Clear. Weather breeder! Dressed poultry. Hung up rack. Pulled weeds in p.m. Finished haying! September 19, Cloudy. Greenwood. Rained. September 20, Cloudy and rainy. Worked on Coburn henhouses. Asthma! Bad! September 21, Clear, windy. Dug 78 bu. spuds for Portland. 82 in all. September 22, Clear, fine. Bob in Portland. Spuds are \$.50 per bu. wholesale. \$.90-\$1 retail. We pulled weeds. September 23, Clear, fine. Ruth, Dad, John, Rodney, and I went to Fryeburg for cranberries. Fair picking. Ruth & I got 36 qts. September 24, Clear, fine. Butchered 2 hogs. Fixed cellar. Dug 37 bbl. spuds. September 25, Clear, fine. Dug spuds. 148 bbl. Got 5% check from Casco \$85.81. September 26, Standard Time. Clear & hot. E. Bethel School reunion. Greenwood in late p.m. Haritas' camp on Twitchell Pond burned. September 27, Windy. Dug on Horse Pasture 15.8 bbl. September 28, Cloudy, showers. Finished Horse Pasture. Started seed piece. H.P. 58 bbl., Seed 133bbl., tot. 193 bbl. September 30, Clear. Finished Bean farm. Started Eph piece. Lot of rot. Bean Farm 112 bbl., 169 bbl., Eph. piece 57 bbl.

(to be continued in the next issue)

2000 Summer and Fall Activities



Museum Assessment Program III surveyors met with the MAP III Steering Committee, staff, trustees, and volunteers this fall during their site visit.



Avery Angevine of the Society's Building Committee prepares to move the blacksmith shop further back in the lot to provide more visibility between the Mason and Robinson House properties.



The flag draped casket of Society Life Member Phyllis Davis Dock leaves the historic 1816 Middle Intervale Meeting House following her September service prior to her burial in the adjoining cemetery.



President Alvin Barth presents the 14th annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Ranald and Sarah Stevens at the Society's 35th Annual Meeting on the grounds of the O'Neil Robinson House.



State Senator Richard Bennett of Norway speaks at the Fourth of July Community Picnic prior to the concert by the Portland Brass Quintet.



Susan Herlihy and Walter Hatch burn the O'Neil Robinson House mortgage while nearly one hundred assembled for the 35th Annual Meeting look on.

"THOSE NUISANCES"

Before the arrival of toilets, bath tubs and sinks to Bethel, there was little concern with sewerage disposal. Privies served their purposes well and the contents that accumulated were periodically returned to the land. If care was taken in their location and proper drainage was maintained, there was little need for change. This state of affairs was particularly true for the outlying areas, but in the village at Bethel Hill, greater precautions were mandatory if "nuisances" were to be avoided. This situation remained the "norm" until it was decided that the village would be better served because of its population density with a source of water from outside the village. A municipal water system was installed in the 1890s with the construction of the Chapman Brook reservoir.

A public source of drinking water contributed immeasurably to the safety of one's health. It, however, compounded the problems of drainage. Indoor plumbing became increasingly possible with a reliable source of supply, but with inadequate sewerage facilities, the dangers to well-being were increased. Epidemics of life-threatening diseases such as typhoid could result from careless disposal or inattention to personal hygiene.

The abundance of water from Chapman Brook for flush toilets and bathing presented an increasingly difficult situation. A contemporary view of what the public faced is provided in these notes recorded by Clare Mason Smith: "In these years, Bethel had no sewerage system. The water company was new, so Chapman Brook helped flush waste from the new school [now the site of the new Gould Academy science and technology building] into Sanding Brook, a tiny stream which started in the marshy land behind the Ames house [now Sally and Richard Taylor's; actually the source is on the other side of Paradise Street] and crossed Main Street in the vicinity of the A & P store [now Ruthie's]. Here there was a fairly large hole. Boys fished for chubs. Ambling on, Sanding Brook collected the debris and bogged down in the alders of High and Mechanic streets. The stench was revolting. There was a petition circulated for the town to institute proper proceedings for laying a drain, but when Dr. Hill, an honored local physician [who would die of typhoid in 1902] and a member of the Board of Health, refused to sign, proponents grew disturbed [about its chances for approval]. Their measure passed by a good margin because Judge [Addison E.] Herrick made a speech so quietly convincing, the voters knew it was a necessary thing. The first sewer line was laid down Main Street towards Alder River. The waste water from Gould's Academy drained off toward Mill Brook. Sanitary conditions to protect the health of school children, grades and Academy alike, were primitive or lacking in those days."

As a result of all this water flowing into the village, its two major streams Mill and Sanding brooks were badly polluted and ready carriers of disease.

It was these circumstances that throughout the 1890s, the Board of Health repeatedly asked to be changed. Yet even they were shortsighted in their proposed solution as this passage from the 1897 town report so amply illustrates: "We again earnestly call attention to the urgent need of some system of sewerage for the village; the growing number of water closets, bath tubs with sink drains are becoming a menace to the public health. To rid ourselves of infectious diseases, it is very important that all such sources of pollution be removed by proper drainage. Nature rarely provides a more suitable location for easy sewerage. Pipes of small caliber, which would carry our sewage into the Androscoggin River. This with our excellent water supply, would enable us to easily put our village in first class sanitary condition."

Not until 1902, however, was the first sewer line installed on

Main Street. By the time of World War I, every street possessed underground sewers which flowed into the Androscoggin. This remained the state of things except for periodic repairs and extensions as streets were added.

A growing concern with environmental issues in the 1960s led in 1972 to the construction below the Main Street railroad crossing of a sewage treatment facility built for \$450,000 to serve over 400 customers. Its purpose was to render waste water ecologically harmless before it reached the Androscoggin. Since that time there have been several upgrades of the plant and new sewage pipes and storm water drains installed in the 1990s. Bethel has indeed come a long way since the days of "those nuisances." SRH

THE LADIES SEWING CIRCLE

From *The Mayflower*, 1 May 1859 [published at Bethel, Maine, only one issue ever published, Vol. 1, No. 1.]

On August 10, 1842, a Martha Washington Total Abstinence Society, was formed, at Bethel Hill. Its primary objects were to reclaim the intemperate, and render assistance to needy families in the vicinity. At the first meeting, Mrs. Agnes Mason was chosen president, Mrs. Betsey Chapman and Mrs. Phebe Russell, vice do., Mrs. Eliza Soule, Sec., Mrs. Nancy Ingalls, Treas.

The Society did good work. Its influence was felt on its own members, and on the community. Its records show numerous cases of assistance rendered to destitute individuals. This organization continued until 1849, when the improved condition of society in our midst was such but seldom required assistance rendered more than what could be readily furnished by individuals. It was felt that another organization on a different basis was necessary. Accordingly in 1849 there was formed the Bethel Sewing Circle, whose object is the cultivation of Benevolence, Truth and Righteousness, in or common cause. The officers chosen at its organization were Mrs. Agnes Mason, Pres., Mrs. S. B. Kimball, vice do., Mrs. Sarah J. D. Straw, Sec., Mrs. Mary Ann Chapman, Treas., Mrs. Mary C. Grover, Miss Mary Waterhouse, Managers.

For ten years, this society has been in successful operation.

Their first object of benevolence was the purchase of a hearse, hearse-house, and two grave cloths. They have fitted out several large boxes of clothing to send away. In 1858 they purchased a musical instrument for the Church, at an expense of one hundred and seventeen dollars. They have rendered assistance to private families, and individuals from time to time as occasion required.

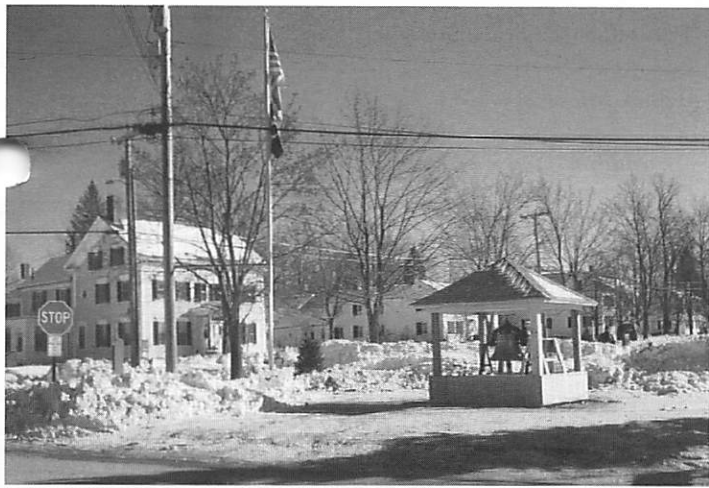
Fairs have been held from time to time to secure funds, which have been quite successful. Thus in these ten years several hundred dollars have been collected, and expended.

In every society, there are usually two classes. The one class are ever dissatisfied with the benevolent labors of those who are so favorably situated as to bestow them. The other class silently, but perseveringly labor on. Who shall say which of these are the benefactors of their race.

Our Savior tells us that "Whosoever shall give a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

Our society was never more active than at present, and perhaps was never engaged in the accomplishment of a greater good. It is but fair and right to acknowledge that they have from time to time been materially aided by the gentlemen of the vicinity, to whom they tender their sincere thanks.

The circle proposes to labor on, unostentatiously, but perseveringly, as long as they can find objects worthy [of] their attention.



The bell tower for the 1896 fire bell is shown in the foreground with the Society's Robinson and Mason houses in the background. The tower was a joint project of the Bethel Fire Department and the Bethel Bicentennial Committee.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217 or by an e-mail: info@bethelhistorical.org

EDITOR'S CORNER

Change is always in the air as the Society moves toward the future. Once more we have to announce that our e-mail address has changed. It is now info@bethelhistorical.org. Please note this change and don't hesitate to let us know if you have suggestions for future issues of *The Courier*. We are always looking for articles on local and regional history, books that should be noted here, and photographs depicting life in the past in addition to our current ones of Society activities and people. Be sure also to note our new web-site address: www.bethelhistorical.org and be

certain to check our museum shop on-line catalog and our updating of coming events on a regular basis.

This issue also marks the passing of Phyllis Davis Dock, who was a strong supporter of the Society and a great friend of *The Courier*. She worked with me extensively in preparing her father's *Memoirs* for publication in this quarterly. They were one of the most avidly read features we have published here and I will always be grateful for Phyllis' help and cooperation in sharing these memories with our readers.

SRH

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Membership Application*

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to the period house museum.
- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly, *The Courier*
- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

Note: New memberships activated after July 1 include that calendar year, plus the following year.

- ____ Student (under 18 years) - \$3
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BETHEL BICENTENNIAL SOUVENIRS, 1796-1996

Bronze Medal. Town seal on the front and the Cole Block, site of today's town office, on the reverse. In presentation case. \$5.00

Souvenir Book. All of the events of 1996 are highlighted in this volume. Includes many photos, both old and new. 46 pp., paper. \$1.00

Civil War First-Day Cover Sets. Set of 32-cent stamps with battle scenes and notables from the period, on twenty envelopes showing a sketch of Bethel's Civil War Monument and special June 10, 1996 postal cancellation in honor of Bethel's 200th anniversary of incorporation. Only 50 sets issued. Very limited supply \$10.00 per set

To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees: under \$10 = \$1.50; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$3.00; \$20 and over = \$4.00

*For a list of additional items available from the Museum Shop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org

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